

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KHARTO 00967 181303Z

15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

/061 W

----- 073496

R 181207Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9752

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 0967

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ET, SU

SUBJECT: OSMAN SALEH SABBE IN KHARTOUM

1. LOCAL PRESS APRIL 18 REPORTS PRESENCE IN KHARTOUM SINCE APRIL 14 OF OSMAN SALEH SABBE, IDENTIFIED AS "OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN OF ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT - 'PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FORCES'". A REPORT SAYS SABBE MET WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI APRIL 15 TO DISCUSS LATTER'S PEACE INITIATIVE. SABBE SAID TO HAVE TOLD NIMEIRI THAT EPMG MUST RECOGNIZE ERITREAN RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. WHEN INTERVIEWER RECALLED THAT ONE ELEMENT OF NIMEIRI'S INITIATIVE WAS THAT TALKS SHOULD BE HELD WITH NO PRECONDITIONS, SABBE REPLIED THAT THERE NO POINT IN STARTING DIALOGUE WITHOUT SOME PRIOR AGREEMENT. AS TO FINAL GOAL, SABBE SAID "OUR BASIC DEMAND IS FULL NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE." HE TOLD REPORTERSTHAT HE HAD ASKED NIMEIRI'S HELP IN UNIFYING THE TWO ERITREAN GROUPS AND SAID THAT NIMEIRI HAD INDEED PROMISED TO ATTEMPT "TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL UNITY AMONG ERITREANS."

2. SABBE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE FIGHTING HAD STOPPED IN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KHARTO 00967 181303Z

ADDIS AND ASMARA, BUT CLAIMED THAT ERITREAN OPERATIONS

OUTSIDE THESE CITIES CONTINUE DESPITE FACT THAT
ETHIOPIAN REGIME PREVENTS NEWS OF THE

ACTIVITY FROM
REACHING PUBLIC.

3. SABBE SAID THAT OAU SECRETARY GENERAL HAS SAID OAU
WOULD DISCUSS ERITREAN REFUGEE ISSUE IF AN AFRICAN COUNTRY
PROPOSED ITEM FOR AGENDA. SABBE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED
WITH ABDULLAH AL HASSAN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE (SUDANESE)
PRESIDENCY, THE PROBLEM OF ERITREAN REFUGEES, WHO NUMBER
100,000 IN SUDAN WITH AN EQUAL NUMBER IN ETHIOPIA. (PRESS
ALSO REPORTS VISIT BY VP AL BAGHIR TO KASSALA, PRESUMABLY
TO VISIT REFUGEE CAMPS).

4. COMMENT: SEVERAL LOCAL SOURCES REPORTED LATE APRIL 17
IN CONTACT HERE WITH LOCAL ELF REPRESENTATIVE WITH A VIEW TO
ARRANGING EARLY ELF/PLX "ORGANIZATIONAL CONGRESS" INSIDE ERITREA

(PRESUMABLY A RE-RUN OF PLANNED CONCLAVE LAST DECEMBER).
ACCORDING ONE SOURCE NIMEIRI ASKED SABBE TO AGREE TO
TALKS WITH EPMG WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. HIS PUBLIC REFUSAL
HARDLY ENCOURAGING BUT COULD BE TACTICAL IN ADVANCE PROPOSED
NATIONAL CONGRESS.
BREWER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INDEPENDENCE, LIBERATION FRONTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KHARTO00967
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750137-0813
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750439/aaaabjux.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OSMAN SALEH SABBE IN KHARTOUM
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ET, SU, ELF, (SABBE, OSMAN SALEH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006